1865

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## LIBRARIAN OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,

READ 15 JULY, 1864,

TO THE

COMMITTEE OF THE OVERSEERS APPOINTED TO VISIT THE LIBRARY.



CAMBRIDGE:
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1865.

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OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN



## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT,

15 JULY, 1864.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF THE LIBRARY:—

In presenting to you my Ninth Annual Report, comprising the period from 10 July, 1863, to 15 July, 1864, my first thoughts naturally turn to the literary treasures which have been poured into Gore Hall in consequence of the Hon. William Gray's munificent donation of \$5,000 annually for the last five years. The time to which this, the largest pecuniary gift which has ever been made to the Library, was limited, has expired. We part with it as with a strong arm on which we leaned, but with profound gratitude for the strength which it has given to every department in the Library, and for what it has done, and for ages to come will continue to do, for intellectual culture at the University.

Five days after the reading of my last Annual Report we were agreeably surprised by the public announcement, on Commencement Day, that Frederick Athearn Lane, an enterprising and successful lawyer of New York, who was graduated in 1849, had placed in the hands of the Corporation the sum of \$5,000, of which the income should be appropriated to the purchase of books. Subsequently a similar sum for the same purpose was bequeathed by Dr. George Hayward, of Boston, a graduate in 1809, for many years a Professor in the Medical Department of the University, and during several of the last years of his life an active member of the Corporation.

George Washington Wales, of Boston, whose name has so often been presented to the Committee in connection with the splendid library of his brother, Henry Ware Wales, of the Class of 1838, has added another hundred dollars to his previous valuable gifts, to supply the wants of the Wales collection and keep it in good condition.

Asaph Hall, who has been appointed Professor in the U.S. Naval Observatory at Washington, D.C., has sent two instalments from his salary, in grateful recollection of the favors he received at the Library during his residence at Cambridge a few years ago.

In estimating all such free-will offerings we naturally look beyond their pecuniary value to the pleasant associations with the University and the Library by which they were prompted.

To the collection of coins and tokens, 298 have been added as gifts. Of these, 9 were received from Dr. Edward Jarvis, of Dorchester, of the Class of 1826; 29 from Mrs. Olive Augusta (Fenno) Alger, of South Natick; and 53 from Hercules Warren Fay, of the Class of 1862. One hundred and eighty-three, including 4 of gold and 123 of silver, were from Mrs. Nathaniel Appleton Haven, Jr., of Portsmouth, N. H., whose previous contributions to this department and whose valuable gifts to the Library have been noticed in former Reports, and whose son, Horace Appleton Haven, of the Class of 1842, pure in heart and full of promise, lived but just long enough to make in his own name the bequest which for twenty years has been available as the Haven Fund.

The Library has received several small engravings, some lithographs, a few photographs of graduates, and the volume containing the photographs of the Class of 1863, which was presented by the photographer, George Kendall Warren, of Lowell and Cambridgeport, and elegantly bound by the Class.

The Hon. Joseph Williamson, of Belfast, Maine, has

given a photograph of an engraved plate recently found at Castine, where it was deposited more than two centuries ago.

At the suggestion of the Rev. Frederick West Holland (H. U. 1831), His Royal Highness Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, has sent a photograph of a portion of the very ancient manuscript of the Samaritan Pentateuch, which is preserved in the sanctuary of the Samaritans at Nāblūs, at the foot of Mount Gerizim. It was taken for His Royal Highness at the time of his visit to Palestine in 1862.

Donations of books have been made by so many individuals, that the limits of the Report render it inexpedient to allude otherwise than in the appended List to many which are deserving of special notice.

Through Edward Ellenborough Law, of Philadelphia (H. U. 1819), has been received a volume entitled "Translations from the Classics, the French and Italian. By an Idler. Printed by himself for himself,"—a gift from the author, Adolphus Périès, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Several volumes have been given by Undergraduates.

Among the contributions of College officers are more than 40 volumes from Professor Child; numerous pamphlets and about 70 volumes from Professor Wolcott Gibbs; and from Professor Lowell several volumes, together with a collection of about 30 scarce pamphlets, most of which were wanted towards completing the extensive collection which the Library previously contained respecting Whitefield and his labors and controversies in America.

More than 20 volumes have been received from the Hon. Henry Wilson, United States Senator; 28 from Edward L. Adams, of the Adams Express Company, Boston; 37 volumes and 178 pamphlets from William Francis Allen, of West Newton (H. U. 1851); a rich collection of 53 well-bound volumes, chiefly Swedenborg's writings or relating to Swedenborgianism, from William James, of Boston; 63 volumes, besides 120 pamphlets, from Dr. Benjamin Joy Jeffries, of Boston (H. U. 1854); 97 volumes from John

Joseph May, of Dorchester; more than 100 volumes from Henry Gardner Denny, of Dorchester (H. U. 1852); more than 100 volumes and 400 pamphlets, 17 maps and 3 engravings, besides newspapers, from Charles Eliot Norton, of Cambridge (H. U. 1846); and 118 volumes from Richard Green Parker, of Cambridge (H. U. 1817).

Charles W. Moore, of Boston, has given 12 volumes, to complete the set of the Freemason's Monthly Magazine.

C. F. Duren, of Bangor, Maine, has sent 68 pamphlets towards completing the series of the Sermons before the Maine Missionary Society and of the Society's Reports.

Professor Samuel Roosevelt Johnson, D. D., of the General Theological Seminary of New York, has contributed several volumes and about 1200 pamphlets to the collection relating to the Episcopal Church and its Institutions in America which was previously in the Library, and to which the Rev. William Stevens Perry (H. U. 1854) has for several years been making extensive additions.

Captain Charles O. Boutelle, of the United States Coast Survey, has given 47 volumes, of which's are manuscript, containing letters to his uncle, the Rev. Ezra Shaw Goodwin, of Sandwich, (H. U. 1807,) and the results of Mr. Goodwin's valuable critical investigations of classical, theological, and other subjects.

Miss Mary Willard, of Hingham, has given a manuscript volume by her father, Samuel Willard, D. D. (H. U. 1803), entitled "The Family Psalter, and Songs for the Sanctuary; with an Introductory Treatise on the Elements of Vocal Expression, both Musical and Oratorical." The Introduction, in which the author explains his plan of the adaptation of the poetical and musical emphasis to each other, was written, as well as many of the hymns, after he reached the age of eighty or eighty-one years.

From Mrs. Matilda (Webber) Dana, of Cambridge, has been received a manuscript copy of four lectures on Electro-Magnetism, delivered in January and February, 1827,

before the New York Athenæum, by her late husband, James Freeman Dana, a Harvard graduate of 1813, who was then Professor in the University of New York. He died in April, 1827, two months after these lectures were delivered, leaving in them the results of investigations which show his efforts to have been among the earliest in this country to excite an interest in the subject of Electro-Magnetism.

From the house of Ticknor and Fields of Boston have been received 33 volumes. In the same spirit with which their publications have been given for many years, they have been continued since the death of the generous and lamented head of the firm, William D. Ticknor, whose enthusiasm for the Library and the College was as ardent as if he had been one of its most affectionate graduates.

The house of Gould and Lincoln of Boston has given such of their recent publications as had not been previously procured.

The Hon. Charles Sumner (H. U. 1830) has given about 400 volumes and 2800 pamphlets, besides 5 maps, 18 engravings, 21 manuscripts, and a large number of newspapers. A portion of this collection relates to the subjects in which his brother, the late George Sumner, was especially interested, and many of the works appear, by the autographs on them, to have been presented to him by the authors.

The name of the late learned Professor Convers Francis, D. D. no longer stands among our living benefactors; but his wishes, sacredly carried out by his son and daughter, though not expressed in a formal will, have, in addition to a magnificent gift to the Divinity School, secured to the College Library from his unique collection about 600 rare volumes, and 100 pamphlets, none of which are counted as duplicates.

There are several persons — Dr. Winslow Lewis (H. U. 1819), Rear-Admiral Davis (H. U. 1825), Dr. Samuel Ab-

bott Green (H. U. 1851), Henry Gardner Denny (H. U. 1852), and others — who deserve special mention, not only for their donations year after year, but for their exertions in behalf of the Library. Nathaniel Colver Leeds, of the Junior Class of Undergraduates, has rendered valuable assistance; and Christopher Channing Whitcomb, of Cambridge, has spent much time and labor, and been very successful in procuring rare works and in completing serials and several sets of periodicals. The Hon. James Black, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, who has undoubtedly the largest collection of books and pamphlets in the world on the subject of Temperance, has given several volumes, and procured several books in the German language as gifts from the German authors and publishers in his vicinity.

In looking over the list of donations in this country it is interesting to observe the great number of sources from which they have come, and that they are from places scattered over not less than twenty of the States.

When we pass beyond the United States the gratification is not diminished. The gifts have been poured in from different parts of the British Provinces in America, from Brazil in South America, from several places in Great Britain, and, on the Continent, from Paris, Florence, Vienna, Leipzig, Rostock, Göttingen, the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, the Kingdom of Bavaria, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Christiania in Norway, Petersburg in Russia, and even from Kolapoor in India, and other places. Nearly all the works which individuals and the learned institutions and societies in foreign countries were sending, and which were specified in the last Report, have been continued, and several others have been added, which are noticed in the list appended to this Report.

We have been gratified in receiving from His Excellency Senhor M. M. Lisbôa, Brazilian Minister at Washington, D. C., several important publications, which we could not otherwise have procured, respecting the country which he represents. From James Orchard Halliwell, LL. D., to whom the Library was previously indebted for several gifts, have been received a number of rare books and tracts, with eight specimens of leases, deeds, &c., from the time of Edward the Third, to 1635, written on parchment.

Twenty-six volumes have been sent to us from the Library of the University at Göttingen, Prof. Karl Hoeck, Librarian.

Henry Tuke Parker (H. U. 1842), the Library's agent in London, has sent several choice gifts. One of them is a very nicely written manuscript of the fourteenth century, seventy-seven leaves on vellum, - the first three leaves wanting. It is a didactic poem called "Stimulus Conscientiæ," or "The Prick of Conscience," and generally ascribed to Richard Rolle, commonly called Richard de Hampole, an Eremite of the Order of St. Augustine, who lived a solitary life near the Priory of Hampole, four miles from Doncaster. This volume belonged to Francis Blomefield, the Norfolk Historian, and contains his bookplate. A full account of this curious work, by Joseph Brooks Yates, is contained in the Archæologia of the Society of Antiquaries of London, XIX. 314, with which may be compared what is contained in Warton's History of English Poetry, II. 35, ed. 1840. "It is a work of great labor and learning; presenting a view of the morality and the dogmas of the clerical orders of that day, who were then almost the only depositaries of information and arbiters of conscience."

One of the most important additions during the year is a copy of Tischendorf's magnificent edition of the Codex Sinaiticus, in four folio volumes, the gift of his Majesty Alexander the Second, Emperor of Russia, through his Excellency Baron Von Stoeckl, Russian Minister at Washington. This precious manuscript, supposed to be more than fifteen hundred years old, contains, in addition to a large part of the Old Testament in Greek, the New Testa-

ment entire, together with the Epistle of Barnabas, and a part of the "Shepherd" of Hermas. It is printed in facsimile type, cast for the express purpose, like Baber's splendid edition of the Codex Alexandrinus, which, however, it surpasses in typographical beauty. It has nineteen finely executed fac-simile plates, representing portions of the manuscript of special interest, and two additional plates giving fac-simile specimens of thirty-six of the oldest existing Greek manuscripts, illustrating the changes in the style of writing at different periods.

To these scattered gifts from hundreds of donors are to be added what have been purchased with the incomes from the gifts of Hollis, Shapleigh, Haven, Ward, Salisbury, Gray, and Bowditch.

The whole number of accessions during the year, exclusive of unbound newspapers, duplicates, unimportant sale catalogues, &c., is about 4,153 volumes, 7,217 pamphlets, and 36 maps, including Reymann's great Topographical Map of Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Poland, in 301 sheets, and the Map of Germany and the neighboring countries, published by the Weimar Geographical Institute, in 255 sheets.

Twenty-six of the maps were gifts. Of the 4,153 volumes, 2,522, or nearly five eighths, were given; and all of the 7,217 pamphlets, except about 185. And it is deserving of notice that—though, through the great efforts for more than twenty years to accumulate pamphlets, by which the number in the Library, besides what are in bound volumes, was probably at least 70,000 a year ago—these additional 7,217 were what remained after rejecting thousands of duplicates.

Considering the state of the country, the high prices of books, the high rates of foreign exchange, and the derangement of the currency, this is a gratifying view of the prosperity of the Library for the year 1863-64, particularly when the prospect is that for the coming year the incomes

from all the permanent funds will not be as much as will be required to meet the expenses of the serials and periodicals which are now taken, and which seem indispensable to keep the College officers and others who frequent the Library well informed of what is passing in the world of letters.

In the course of the year 78 volumes have been repaired and 378 bound.

Fifteen volumes have disappeared and been stolen; and of those which were missing at the last examination or before, six have been recovered. One volume, which was borrowed 16 March, 1855, by a Professor, to accommodate an acquaintance named Niles, who went off without returning it, and for which the borrower had to substitute another, was recently found by Dr. Shurtleff among some old books and papers in an apothecary's shop in Boston. Four volumes which were missing at the examination in 1855, the last examination before the decease of my predecessor, Dr. Harris, were returned anonymously through the Express on the second day of last February.

All the books and pamphlets received during the year have been catalogued with full titles on the long cards, and also, with the exception of some unimportant pamphlets and continuations, on the smaller cards used for the new catalogues of authors and subjects, of which a full description was given last year. These new catalogues have already added greatly to the utility of the Library, and have been constantly resorted to by the College students and others engaged in literary research. The whole number of volumes entered in them up to the first of July was about 32,000; of pamphlets, 8,500; the number of cards written, over 81,000.

The bound volumes received during the last year have all been placed on the shelves of the Library; but great difficulty and embarrassment have been experienced in the attempt to preserve the classification of the books, on account of the want of room in many alcoves for the new

accessions. Extensive changes in the arrangement, attended with a serious expenditure of time and labor, have thus been made necessary. For example, the whole body of Shakespearian literature has been driven from the alcove to which it belongs, and compelled to take refuge in the alcoves on the opposite side of the Library, appropriated to the Greek and Latin Classics, which have very little room to spare. The portion of the 8th Alcove devoted to English poetry is full, and where additions to that department shall be placed hereafter is a problem not easy of solution. 32d Alcove, devoted to mathematics, has only been relieved by taking a large number of elementary works on Arithmetic, Algebra, and Geometry from the shelves, tying them up in parcels of convenient size, and packing them away behind a collection of similar works occupying certain The same process has been necesshelves in Alcove 12. sarily resorted to in Alcove 30, from which all the English Grammars, Readers, and Spelling-Books have been withdrawn, and disposed of in a similar manner. perate expedients only foreshadow the troubles to come, unless active measures are promptly taken to provide better accommodations for the Library than Gore Hall is now able to afford.

Besides the changes alluded to, Alcoves 4,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , and 30 have been re-arranged during the year, new shelf catalogues made for them, and most of the new places of the books marked on the cards.

Thus concludes the last year of the century since the disastrous destruction by fire, on the night of the 24th of January, 1764, of all except two or three hundred of the volumes of which the Library then consisted. The total number of books now in Gore Hall is about 108,000, and in all the libraries connected with the different departments of the University about 163,500. In addition to these there are probably between 75,000 and 80,000 pamphlets, and one of the most valuable collections of early maps in existence.

The beginning of the accumulation of these literary treasures was made immediately after the old Library was burnt. As the old Harvard Hall was destroyed while it was occupied by the Legislature, the neat Harvard Hall now standing was built by the Province of Massachusetts Bay. make a Library for it, New Hampshire gave £ 300 and Hancock more than £550. Governor Bernard gave liberally, and was active in procuring donations. Clergymen and scholars with limited means felt that the loss to Christianity and learning demanded personal sacrifices, and sent from their small private collections volumes which from the autographs and notes in them appear to have been cherished gifts from ancestors and friends. Others who had ampler means gave more liberally. Several hundred pounds were raised in England. A number of donations were made by English authors and publishers. Hollis, whose name should not be mentioned but with gratitude and affection, sent boxes after boxes of the best books which he could select, bound in the most sumptuous and substantial manner. Most of them were treasures, now so scarce and intrinsically valuable that they are eagerly sought for as rarities. He grasped all subjects, always having reference to solid scholarship. In one of his volumes he wrote that he had been "particularly industrious in collecting Grammars and Lexicons of the Oriental Root languages to send to Harvard College, in hope of forming by that means, assisted by the Energy of the Leaders, always beneficent, a few PRIME scholars, Honors to their Country and Lights to Mankind." In another book he wrote, "Hearne's publications, especially the large paper, are VERY difficultly met with; but they shall be ALL sent, notwithstanding, to Harvard College." Of Prynne's Works, on a blank leaf, dated "Palmal, Oct. 1, 1769," he writes: "It has been thought proper to bind this copy of a very curious and scarce work, in six volumes, for the conveniency of the ingenuous Students of Harvard College, at Cambridge, in New England,

who shall consult it. The copy was complete, in three tomes, when purchased a few years ago; but was mutilated afterward, shamefully, in a manner not so proper to relate, and the scarcer part of the scarcer tome, from page 848 to page 993, stolen! It is supposed that there are not six complete copies of this valuable work, at this time, in Britain." At the Stowe sale, a set was sold for nearly £200.

Thus it was with various other important works, from which I might make similar extracts of notes in his handwriting. He also left to the Library a fund of £500 at his decease, 1 January, 1774.

By such means was gathered a library which, while it contained some books of comparatively little value, was made up mostly of such works as would, because of their worth, be considered indispensable in a good library at the present day. It was an excellent collection.

The war of the Revolution followed. The College buildings were occupied by troops. The College officers and students removed to Concord. For security the Library was distributed among clergymen and others in the country towns, where it would be but little exposed to the evils of war. When the war was ended, and the scattered volumes were welcomed back to their old places on the shelves, the country was exhausted. To pay the taxes and procure subsistence was as much as the people could do. The Library, in common with the College, suffered. But as prosperity returned, the attention of graduates, and the public spirit which began to be developed in the community, were turned towards the institution, which, founded by the fathers, was the pride of the children.

At this juncture the accession of Dr. Kirkland to the Presidency, in November, 1810, gave an impetus to the Library, in common with all the other departments of the University. He availed himself of this state of feeling to advance the interests of the Institution. During his administration of about eighteen years, the Law and Divinity

Schools were established; the Rumford, Smith, Eliot, and McLean Professorships were founded, great changes were made in the course of instruction, and an interest in the College awakened, which led to important bequests. his survey of the various objects which demanded attention, the Library was not overlooked. He exerted himself for this as he did for the other departments, and during his administration the accessions probably amounted to This was a great advance on the about 10,000 volumes. preceding twenty or thirty years; but it was not wholly, or to any considerable extent, because upon his inauguration the "barriers fell at once," as the Report of the last Examining Committee states, or "because the opening of the Library freely to the public . . . . raised up benefactors beyond the fondest hopes of those who adopted the measure half a century ago."

The Hollis and Shapleigh Funds had been given previously; and the donors, if one is to judge by the exclusiveness which prevailed when their bequests were made and the fact that Shapleigh himself was a Librarian, could not have been actuated by the liberality of the policy of Dr. Kirkland's administration, which was adopted many years afterward. Here was an income of some \$300 a year for seventeen or eighteen years, which, if judiciously laid out, probably paid for 2,000 or 2,500 of the 10,000 volumes.

Next is the bequest of 1,200 volumes by Thomas Palmer, of London, whose College course was passed during the rigid Library restrictions which were in force when he graduated, in 1761, not long after which he went to Europe, where he spent the remainder of his life. He made magnificent gifts to the Library as early as 1771, and foreshadowed his purpose when Dr. Kirkland, a year or two old, was living among the little Indian boys at Fort Herkimer.

Next we have the Ebeling Library, of some 3,500 volumes, given by the late Israel Thorndike, which never

would have come to us but for Dr. Cogswell. How far Dr. Cogswell was influenced by the policy of free access to the Library, may be inferred from the fact that his administration as Librarian here was marked by a strict exclusion of all persons except during the regular library hours, and that he procured an order not only prohibiting all persons from taking out books during one winter, but even excluding College officers as well as others from access to the Library. He knew that the interests of the Library would be best promoted by getting its contents ready for use before they were allowed to go out, and that this could not be done if the Library was constantly accessible. if anything more is wanted on this head, it may be added, that to him is the world indebted for the Astor Library, and that, by the laws which were made principally through his influence, the building is effectually closed during the month of August; and at other times, though closed half an hour before sunset, it is not open before ten o'clock; and, moreover, no books are allowed to be taken away from the Library.

To these may be added the Warden Collection of about 1,200 volumes, which were given by Mr. Eliot at the very close of Dr. Cogswell's administration, when the restrictive rules which the good of the Library required were in full force and well known.

Several hundred duplicate volumes were sold at auction and at private sales during Dr. Kirkland's administration, in order to procure others, which are also to be taken into consideration.

Thus, from the incomes of the Hollis and Shapleigh Funds, the Palmer, Thorndike, and Eliot gifts, and the sales of duplicates, it is reasonable to suppose that there was an accession of about 9,000 volumes which had nothing to do with the free policy, if it may be so called, which, it is said, was inaugurated in Dr. Kirkland's administration.

But suppose this number over-estimated, and that the

additions from all these sources amounted to about 8,500. There will then remain 1,500 of the 10,000 volumes unaccounted for. From these deduct 141 elegantly bound volumes of French works given by the Hon. David Sears, who graduated some years before Dr. Kirkland was inaugurated; also what were given by College officers and by Mr. Everett and Mr. Folsom, and particularly what these two gentlemen procured in Europe from authors and publishers, who probably did not even inquire how many hours in a day the Library was open, or rather judged of it by the restrictions of European libraries, and add to these what were purchased by Professor Ticknor's appropriation of one year's salary for this purpose; and, so far as it regards number, there can remain but very few of the 10,000 volumes, probably not more than twenty or thirty annually, which were derived from all other sources. that it is a mistake to suppose that "whole libraries were poured into Harvard Hall by the munificence of several benefactors," because of "the opening of the Library freely to the public."

And "the practice, with grateful authors and publishers, of enriching the Library with copies of their new works, which had been made better by the use of its stores," did not amount to much. A few volumes were given by their authors. The largest publishing house in Boston gave several volumes; but not so many as are now sometimes given by a student while in college. And, with the exceptions which I have made, I do not think that all the publishers, during the eighteen years, gave so many books as have recently and repeatedly been given in one year by Ticknor and Fields.

If, too, so much was effected as seems to be implied in the Report of the Committee of the last year, it would naturally be expected that the accessions would, on the whole, have been constantly increasing, and that in the course of fifteen years the tide would have become strong, and be bearing into Harvard Hall argosies of literary treasures. But so far was this from being the fact, I am confident that, while I was Assistant Librarian, so near the end of Dr. Kirkland's administration as 1825-26, there were not more than twenty-five or thirty volumes added from all sources during the year, and, if I recollect right, nearly half of these were given by myself.

It is not, however, a liberal library policy which I would be understood to oppose, but a policy which I conceive would on the whole be injurious. The Library should never be opened when it is inconsistent with its highest interests. And this, to which there is no allusion in the Report, was as striking a part of Dr. Kirkland's policy as the extension of library privileges. His "marvellous personal influence" procured the order which closed the Library entirely during one winter. When there was a change of librarians in the latter part of his administration, he used his influence and procured the vote that Seniors and Juniors on Mondays and Thursdays, Sophomores on Tuesdays, and Freshmen on Wednesdays in the afternoon, and then only, if they wanted to take out books, should go to the Library, and on slips write the titles, and go again immediately after Commons the next morning and get them. And all other persons, except members of the Faculty, were also required to go through a similar routine of two days to get a book, and perhaps to go without any, if at the second coming it was found that the book did not belong to the Library or was out. This was a very unpopular and vexatious measure; but it was the best thing which, under the circumstances, could be done for the interests both of the Library and of those who used it. So that the throwing open of the doors of the Library was checked always by what was necessary to make it most available and useful.

But according to the Report, "Not only has the time in which" the Library "is accessible been abridged, by one

day and a half in the week (at present by one whole day) during term-time, but the exigencies of the literary public, which very exigencies the University Library itself has done so much to create, make the closing of it during the Academic vacation, that is, for one entire quarter of the year (with the exception of one morning a week), to be felt as a public calamity in the world of letters. 'Disastrous twilight,' 'dim eclipse,' 'cold obstruction,' are borrowed terms familiarly applied to it.'

Let us see if this is a fair and reasonable statement.

As to the abridgment of the time during which the Library is accessible, I state from personal knowledge that from the year 1821 till after I became Librarian, the Library was closed in term-time on Fridays in the afternoon and on Saturdays; and I am assured that this was the case previously. I find no official authority to sustain the statement that the time for access to it is now abridged by one day in the week; and, having examined the College laws, I assert that the Library never before the present administration has been open so many hours in a week as it is now. So far as this abridgment is urged for extending the time, it is not founded on fact.\*

In term-time, except during the College dinner hours and on Saturdays, Gore Hall is now open from nine to five o'clock, or till sunset when that is before five; and on Saturday afternoons it is abandoned to the sweepers. This leaves only Saturday forenoons when it is closed.

During the hours of access every reasonable facility for literary research is extended to visitors. Every kind of

<sup>\*</sup> After this Report was read, a scrutinizing examination led to the discovery that on the manuscript records there stood, for a few weeks, when some changes were going on, more than fifty years ago, a vote by which the Library might have been opened one hour more in a week. Considering how little the Library was then used, and that, years afterward, it was the study-room of the officers in attendance, and that Professor Norton used it for a recitation-room, the circumstance is hardly worth mentioning except for the purpose of being strictly accurate.

library business is made to yield to their accommodation. There is no person connected with the Library or employed there who does not leave his work for that purpose. These applications for information, which are invited, encouraged, and urged, as pertaining to the purposes for which books are made and libraries founded, consume a great deal of time. Not unfrequently, after giving to them and other incidental matters the attention which they require, I have not more than one or two hours in a day left for solid work. Last Term I employed all the time I could command for about five weeks on important business, which could have been accomplished in five days with closed doors. consequence is a constant tendency to fall in arrears, and to an accumulation of business, which hangs like a dead weight on the efforts to bring up the Library and keep it in easy running order. To provide in some degree for this, and to have one uninterrupted half-day in each week to do many things, which, in a building so like a whispering-gallery as Gore Hall is, cannot be done except when visitors are excluded, I have strenuously insisted on closing the doors effectually about four hours on each Saturday forenoon; that being a time, and the only time in the week, when the laws do not require them to be kept open.

And in this connection I must speak of the accommodations, which, at exceeding inconvenience, are granted by the College Library, and not commonly granted elsewhere, at the time of the annual examinations. On these occasions other libraries are generally closed from the time the books are called in till the work is completed. Here the Library is accessible as usual. And the College Professors and other Instructors have the privilege of keeping out books more than a fortnight longer than others. As the parts for Commencement are not assigned till after the books are called in, the Library officers must give much time to selecting for the performers the best books and essays which can be found on their several subjects; and

the privilege of taking them out must again be given to them. As none but those who have parts can do this, and it is still term-time, the Library is constantly resorted to for reading. To this it may be added, that before Commencement there are many visitors who take the occasion to spend a little time in Gore Hall. So many interruptions of course interfere seriously with the work of comparing every title of more than 100,000 volumes with the alcove catalogues, looking after delinquents, making out exact lists of all the books that have disappeared, and of all that have been restored, examining into and settling doubtful cases, counting and summing up results, and making out the Annual Report; all of which must be carried. through in about three weeks, and be ready for the Committee on the day of the examination. No one who has not had the experience can form an idea of the pressure upon body and mind which under these circumstances is required to do this work thoroughly within the time which was thought to be all that could be allowed thirty or forty years ago, when there were not one fourth as many volumes as now, and every instructor was required to return his books as soon as other persons, and there were comparatively few students and visitors. It would be an indescribable relief if the work could be done with closed doors; but though other libraries close theirs at such times, Harvard, under all the inconveniences, calls on her Library officers to continue her accommodations.

In vacations, Gore Hall is open every Monday from nine to one o'clock. Double the ordinary number of volumes is then allowed to all who are entitled to the use of the Library; and College officers are virtually unrestricted. Latterly, to those who could not, even with these facilities, pursue their investigations without considerable inconvenience, an extra hour or more has been given in the afternoons of Wednesdays and Fridays, or on such other afternoon as was most convenient for them. And when all this

was not enough, and a man's residence in Cambridge was expressly for the purpose of using the Library in preparing works for the press, a private arrangement has been made by which on every day except Saturdays and Sundays a knock at a previously appointed hour has procured admittance. If the hour was early, he has been able to pursue his studies all day during five days of the week, with a great deal more success than if the Library had been open; and at the same time the Library business has been going on without very serious interruptions.

With all these concessions and accommodations in termtime and during the preparation for the annual examinations, and in vacations, I do not understand how the closing of the Library as much as it is can be "felt as a public calamity in the world of letters," or how the borrowed terms "disastrous twilight," "dim eclipse," "cold obstruction," can reasonably be applied to it.

The peculiarly bad construction of Gore Hall, — in which there is not much more privacy than in the parlor, reading-room, or bar-room of a hotel, — added to an effort promptly to provide for and even anticipate the wants of all as soon as they are seen to enter it, crowds off work which must be done, and which cannot be done except in the freedom from intrusion afforded by Saturday forenoons and vacations. These seasons of comparative quiet are diligently improved. The policy which would throw open the doors at all times to all persons indiscriminately, even cutting off in vacations the services which are rendered gratuitously because the labor cannot be performed in term-time, does not grasp in all its bearings the highest interests of the Library or of literature.

Moreover, since I had the honor to be chosen Librarian, eight years ago, all the measures have been adopted which would really promote the highest interests of the Library, so far as they could be learned by an experience and careful observation which have been constantly devel-

oped during a period now covering nearly a quarter of a century. Gore Hall is now open all day on Fridays, instead of being opened only in the forenoon. It has been made accessible seven hours a day instead of six. The time for borrowing and returning books, instead of being limited, as it was by a strict interpretation of the law, to one hour on Tuesdays for Sophomores, and one on Wednesdays for Freshmen, and to one on Mondays and another on Thursdays for Seniors and Juniors, being but two hours in a week for the two higher classes and but one hour for each of the lower classes, has been extended, so that all persons indiscriminately, who are entitled to its privileges, can borrow and return books whenever the Library is open. A general invitation through the thousands who visit Gore Hall, and through Circulars and the Annual Catalogues, has been extended through the country to all classes of people, whether connected with the College or not, to come and avail themselves of its literary treasures. The area of the building, so far as it is practicable, has been filled with chairs and tables to facilitate their labors. The number of periodicals has been increased to about 200, which, instead of being kept in a closet and handed out as they were asked for, are now placed where they are accessible, without the asking, to all who wish to keep themselves informed of whatever is recent in the world of letters. A system of cataloguing has been devised by the Assistant Librarian, and vigorously carried forward, sometimes by night as well as by day, and in vacations as well as amid the incessant interruptions of term-time, which reveals the treasures of the Library, and places them before all who use it, in a way never before known. A spirit of research has been awakened which never before existed. Within a few years the use of the Library in term-time has been quadrupled. sends out a flood of light and learning, which would have been by far smaller but for the labor expended, while the Library was closed, in bringing its treasures into a good condition for use.

And if we are to judge by results in the community, the course which has been pursued has been so far from unsatisfactory, that, combining with other favorable causes, it has culminated in unprecedented prosperity. During the present administration, more money has been given to the Library for immediate expenditure for books than during the two preceding centuries. Besides this, the permanent funds, entirely inadequate as they are to meet the wants of an intensely active, searching, and broad scholarship, have been more than doubled. The average of accessions annually, not to mention thousands of pamphlets, has risen from 251 volumes, which were all that were added from all sources in 1839-40, the year before I came to Gore Hall, to about 6,000 volumes. Of these, the scattering donations from hundreds of givers, instead of 161 volumes annually, now average more than 2,000. Considerably more than one third of all the volumes which have been accumulating since the disastrous destruction by fire, one hundred years since, have been added during the last eight years. Gore Hall, which many thought capacious enough to contain all the additions which would be made during the present century, is already filled. These accumulations would not have been poured in so bountifully if the obstructions to the use of the Library were as formidable as the Report of last year's Committee seems to imply.

But to come directly to the point: — How far is it true that such expressions as "disastrous twilight," "dim eclipse," "cold obstruction," have been "familiarly applied" to exclusion from the Library? It is singular that not one of them should have come to the knowledge of the Librarian before he saw them in the Report. The President, as well as the Professor who was the acting President before Dr. Hill's election, and who has been four years in a position where such expressions, if "familiarly applied," would be likely to reach him, has never heard one of them, or any of a similar character. From such remarks by two

or three persons to draw so sweeping a charge against the laws and administration of the Library as the Report contains is not fair. One might as well record the universal unpopularity of a Professor from the captious remarks of two or three students, who wanted a little more liberty than the wholesome laws of the College would allow. And with still more propriety might there have been a clamor against the vexatious, though under the circumstances judicious, administration of the Library, when a student was required to go on one day and put down his name for a book, and, if it happened to be out or he failed to call for it the next morning, to go without one for a week.

From high authority I am informed that the only applications for more freedom of access which have been deserving of serious consideration have come from the College Faculty, and that they related particularly to the winter vacations, Cambridge being nearly deserted by them in the summer. From what has been stated I think it must appear that they have been met as far as the highest interests of the Library at present justify, and I believe, too, to the general satisfaction of the applicants. To test the importance to be attached to applications for extra hours of admission, a memorandum was made of the number who in the last winter vacation but one came to Gore Hall for literary purposes in the extra afternoons, and the average did not exceed two for each day. And this average appears to have been made up of three persons, one of whom came but once, and the other two occasionally, one of them pretty regularly. Last summer vacation nobody came. Last winter vacation the average was not equivalent to more than one person on each of the extra days. And these persons were engaged in such important studies that, if they had made application to the Librarian, they could have been admitted at hours previously agreed on. To throw open the Library in vacations to everybody for the purpose of accommodating so few, who can be accommodated, too, without it, is asking too much. And if the experience of three vacations is a fair test of the use which would be made of the Library for literary purposes, or even if the use of it were to be quadrupled, it is obvious that the closing of it as much as it is in vacations, particularly when so many persons are absent from Cambridge, and there are such means for study as the Boston libraries furnish, cannot "dislocate many plans by enforcing inaction in what should be the busiest time," nor be "felt as a public calamity in the world of letters."

There is no college library on the Continent which is open so many hours, or is so liberal in its accommodations, as Harvard. And as College officers, the officers of the Library, who are tasked very severely, and are every year repeatedly prostrated with exhaustion, ought to have the privilege of relaxation, like other College officers. If they are willing to forego this privilege to some extent for the purpose of expediting work which cannot be accomplished in term-time, they ought not while doing it to be required or expected to open the doors at all hours to everybody. Their time is their own, and should be held equally sacred, whether in their private studies or in Gore Hall. If they do not come to the Library, they of course are not there to admit people. If they come when they are not required to, no one but the President, who has keys and can introduce visitors when he pleases, ought to expect to be admitted. The preparation of the contents of the Library for use, particularly when it is made gratuitously, should be allowed to take precedence of everything else.

The appointment of an assistant or substitute temporarily for the vacations would not meet the emergency. It would be a nuisance, to say nothing of the inexpediency of transferring to another the Librarian's responsibilities. The inconveniences from free access, so far as they arise from the unfortunate construction of Gore Hall, would still continue. And to relieve the Library officers in any consider-

able degree, the substitute must be so familiar with the details of the mode of administering the Library, as well as with its contents, that the officers, if present, need not be called on, or if absent, that the scholars who, according to the theory of the Report, would be likely to crowd into Gore Hall, could be pointed not only to the books which obviously belong to the subjects which they are severally investigating, but to the hidden wells of wisdom which can be known only after long familiarity with the Library. The alternative would be to have a person inadequately qualified to perform the duties, or to have an extra assistant, who should become qualified by long experience in termtime. If the latter, humanity, as well as the interest of the Library, would seem to require that in vacations he, in common with the other Library officers, should have opportunity for relief from labor. To a hard student, who, to accomplish his object, is willing to put himself to a little inconvenience, there is always a way of getting access to the Library in vacations, except on Saturdays. If his case is not urgent enough to prompt him to make some exertion and fix on a precise hour for admission and abide by it, the presumption is that the call is not urgent enough to justify the interruption.

It is with pain that I have been led to make these statements, from which, if I had consulted my personal feelings, I should have shrunk, both because of the prominence which it seemed necessary to give to the present administration of the Library, and because I felt that, if I spoke plainly, I should have to controvert the statements of some to whom I am under personal obligations which can never be forgotten. But believing that, if these statements had been fully considered by the last Committee, the recommendation contained in their Report would not have been made, or at least would have been deferred to a more convenient season, I felt bound by my position to defend an institution, with which my life has been identified for nearly

a quarter of a century, from charges which, circulated among the captious, into whose hands the Report may fall, are likely to do essential injury.

The statements, however, which have been made, show the necessity for better library accommodations, where the work can be carried on without interruption, while the Library itself can be freely used without interfering with it. Gore Hall is virtually but one large room, in which all company is received, library-work done, literary researches made, and any who are inclined to be literary idlers can spend their time. There can be no privacy in it. If the Librarian retires to an alcove to examine accounts, to answer letters, or to do anything which requires seclusion, he is liable at any moment to be called away, and there is no certainty that his papers will not be examined, read, or thrown into confusion before he returns. There is no place where literary researches can be made in quiet. ery footstep sounds through the building. Common conversation is heard everywhere. Notwithstanding all the care which is taken to talk with suppressed voices, the tones in which the merits of the engravings in the Gray Collection in the gallery are discussed frequently interfere seriously for hours in the forenoon with the reading and the studying below. The continual rustle and moving among visitors, and the noise which is inevitable in procuring and returning books in such a building, add to the confusion, and distract the reader's attention.

All the alcoves have been divided which can be advantageously. Several of these small alcoves are occupied by the persons employed to do the work of the Library. And each person shuts up several hundred, in some alcoves 1,000 or 1,500 volumes, to get at which it is necessary for the occupant to rise, move the chair, frequently the table, and remain standing till the steps are adjusted, the book found, and sometimes even consulted; and then to replace everything before resuming work. Considering the num-

ber of alcoves thus occupied, the many calls for books in them, the time lost, and the discomfort which is caused, the evil is serious.

To this it may be added, that a great part of the area of the building is unavoidably occupied with tables on which, surrounded by company, it is necessary to do a large portion of the library work, which ought to be not only beyond the reach, but out of the sight, of all but the operatives.

Experience, too, has shown that the light is very injurious to the sight. The sweeping currents through the Hall in winter are found to imperil health, and cause the severe sickness of some whose duties require their constant attendance. As the walls of Gore Hall are single, the condensation of moisture on the inside dampens, and is gradually, but surely, in some parts of it, destroying the books. one of the alcoves a volume of newspapers was found as wet as a printer makes his paper before putting it on his press. Within ten days after the discontinuance of the fires this spring, the bricks in the basement were covered with a heavy green mould. On taking out, a few months ago, some Catalogues which had been there for some time, they crumbled to pieces. The dampness of the cellar with its deleterious combinations rolls in, whenever the doors are opened. It also follows up the walls and affects to some extent the whole building. Regard both for the dead and the living, who have spent their money, made great sacrifices, and labored diligently, during a century, to accumulate such treasures as could never be replaced, justly demands that they be kept from even a suspicion that they may suffer from indifference and neglect. Any measures which would lead to the erection of a suitable and capacious, but not ostentatious building, would confer an immense benefit on the world of letters, and raise a lasting monument to the memory of the benefactors.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LANGDON SIBLEY, Librarian.

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<sup>\*</sup> This List does not include the names of the donors after 14 July, 1864, as they belong to the next Annual Report. Some of the donors have made several donations, though their names appear but once, and the names of some have not been ascertained.

The List which should have been appended to the last Annual Report was lost after it passed from the Librarian's hands.

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